

In re Application: Norman HARTY  
Serial No.: 10/650,586

AMENDMENT

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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as presented below:

Claims 1-8. (*Canceled*)

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) An apparatus for projecting a laser beam onto a target from which to measure the position of a ~~nearby object~~ football on a football field, the apparatus comprising:

a laser emitting the laser beam, the laser beam having a wavelength in the range of from about 450 nm to about 550 nm;

means for shaping the beam;

a measuring device comprising a first down marker pole alignable on a sideline of the football field and a scrimmage pole connected by a chain wherein the laser is attached to the first down marker pole and is alignable at a 90° angle with the sideline; and

a target positionable on a far side of the football;

wherein the laser beam emitted by the laser is projected over the football field toward the target such that a laser first down mark is created near the football as a result of the laser beam being intercepted by the target.

10. (*Original*) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for shaping the beam comprises a reciprocating member acting to move the beam back and forth to make the beam appear as a vertical line.

11. (*Original*) A method for promoting an accurate measurement of first downs comprising:

aligning a forward first down marker on a sideline of a football field;

positioning a laser apparatus attached to the forward first down marker at a 90° angle with the sideline;

positioning a target on the far side of the football;

projecting a laser beam over the field toward the target;

shaping the laser beam with the aid of a beam shaper;

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intercepting the projected laser beam on the target thereby creating a laser first down mark near the football; and  
determining the position of the football relative to the laser first down mark on the target.

12. *(Original)* The method of claim 11, wherein shaping the laser beam comprises moving the beam back and forth to make the beam appear as a vertical line.

13. *(New)* An apparatus for promoting an accurate measurement of first downs, the apparatus comprising:

means for aligning a forward first down marker on a sideline of a football field;  
means for positioning a laser apparatus attached to the forward first down marker at a 90° angle with the sideline;  
a target positionable on the far side of the football;  
means for projecting a laser beam emitted from the laser apparatus over the field toward the target;  
means for shaping the laser beam with the aid of a beam shaper;  
means for intercepting the projected laser beam on the target thereby creating a laser first down mark near the football; and  
means for determining the position of the football relative to the laser first down mark on the target.

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